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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 003697

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/14/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [IZ](#) [KU](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR URGES SUPPORT FOR LEBANON, CONFIRMS
UNSC VOTE FOR GUATEMALA WITH ACTING MFA U/S

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) During a meeting on a variety of topics with the senior official in country at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, the Ambassador urged the Kuwaiti authorities to respond quickly to the GOL's request for security equipment, noting that support for LAF deployment in the South is critical, along with measures to stop the flow of weapons through Syria. Al-Roumi said Kuwait will continue to make every effort to meet the needs of Lebanon and support UNSCR 1701. Ambassador thanked the Kuwaitis for their generous humanitarian and development support directed to the Lebanese government.

UNSC Vote

¶2. (C) The Ambassador also confirmed with Al-Roumi that the GOK will support Guatemala for the UNSC. (Note: We suggest USUN and NEA make sure the GOK commitment remains firm in conversations with USUN PermRep and with senior Kuwaiti officials present in New York now.)

Iraq

¶3. (C) On the Iraq Compact, Al-Roumi said Kuwait will be represented by the Minister of Finance and Central Bank chief at the IMF/WB meetings in Singapore, and by the Foreign Minister at the UN meeting in New York.

¶4. (C) Al-Roumi noted the recent series of incidents along the Iraq-Kuwait border (three exchanges of gunfire, initiated on the Iraqi side, over the past several weeks though with no casualties). He said he discussed the issue twice with the Iraqi Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait, and said the GOK is "waiting for an answer" from Iraq. He said Kuwait believes that Iraqi police were involved in the last incident, and said Kuwait is worried "who is behind it." Ambassador offered to look at ways the USG can further help with border security issues and told Al-Roumi the issue was prominent on the agenda of the recent Gulf Security Dialogue session held in Washington with GOK senior officials. (Note: In an earlier meeting with PolChief, Iraqi CDA al-Sharifi characterized his conversations with al-Roumi as "polite" but said he sensed very clearly that the Kuwaitis suspect Iranian meddling. End note).

Visit by Kuwaiti Amir to Washington

¶5. (C) Al-Roumi noted the very positive reports he had heard about the Amir's recent visit to Washington. Ambassador said Washington took an equally positive view of the visit, noting that in addition to the very warm and constructive meetings at the White House, the two sides had also held the first

formal session of the Gulf Security Dialogue and had a useful session of the TIFA Council during the Amir's presence in Washington.

16. (C) The Ambassador reviewed the discussion in Washington of a potential GOK refinery investment project in the U.S. He noted that KPC CEO Hani Hussein has been invited to Washington to meet with Energy Secretary Bodman, and suggested that this would be a good opportunity to discuss how the U.S. can facilitate investment in new refinery capacity.

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LeBaron